



USS ENTERPRISE CVN 65
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco 96601

1978
DECLASSIFIED

CVN65/32:bn
5750
Ser 03/C-4
7 FEB 1979

[REDACTED] - Unclassified upon removal of enclosure

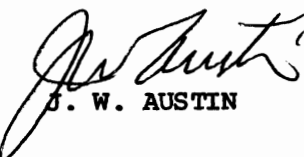
From: Commanding Officer, USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)
Washington, D. C. 20350

Subj: 1978 Command History; forwarding of

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12B

Encl: (1) ENTERPRISE 1978 Command History

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is forwarded as
USS ENTERPRISE's 1978 Command History.


J. W. AUSTIN

Copy to:
Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)
CINCPACFLT
COMNAVAIRPAC (Code 012)

DECLASSIFIED
[REDACTED]

DECLASSIFIED

COMMAND HISTORY - 1978 Summary

The year 1978 was a full operational year for ENTERPRISE. It began with the ship already four months into the workup in preparation for the ninth deployment to the Western Pacific. One intermediate exercise in January was followed by the Operational Readiness Examination (ORE) in March. Then came the preparation for overseas movement (POM) period in March followed by an intensive combined fleet exercise (RIMPAC) and the deployment.

The deployment to the Western Pacific was busy and successful. It encompassed three major exercises, two of which were with allied navies, an Indian Ocean excursion and a series of stimulating port visits. The overall deployment consisted of 210 days with 140 days or 66.6 percent spent at sea.

The cruise was followed by a welcomed one month stand-down period in Alameda. One additional at sea period completed the year starting in November and lasting until mid December for the purpose of training Air Wing Eleven and providing the Pacific Fleet with a CARQUAL deck. Throughout the year, including the deployment and all in port periods, preparations continued for the upcoming complex overhaul scheduled for the following year in Bremerton.

Classified by COMTHIRDFLT

Declassify on 31 DECEMBER 1985

DECLASSIFIED

(THIS PAGE IS FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY) ENCLOSURE (1)

CHRONOLOGY - 1978

1 JAN - 9 JAN IN PORT ALAMEDA

10 - 19 JAN TRANSIT TO SOCIAL
CVW-14 FLY ABOARD (11 JAN)
CYCLIC FLIGHT OPS (12-19 JAN)
WEAPTRAEX (13-15 JAN)
COMPTUEX (16-19 JAN)
VERTREP USS MARS (AFS-1) (17 JAN)
UNREP USNS TALUGA (TAO-62) (17 JAN)

20 - 22 JAN IN PORT NORTH ISLAND, SAN DIEGO

23 JAN - 1 FEB READIEX 2-78
CYCLIC FLIGHT OPS (23 JAN - 1 FEB)

2 - 27 FEB IN PORT ALAMEDA

28 FEB - 10 MAR TRANSIT TO SOCIAL
ASW OPS (USS BLUEBACK) (1 MAR)
CARRIER QUALS SOCIAL (1-3 MAR)
CYCLIC FLIGHT OPS (4-9 MAR)
OPERATIONAL READINESS EXAMINATION (5-10 MAR)

11 MAR - 3 APR IN PORT ALAMEDA

4 APR DEPART NAS ALAMEDA
COMMENCE PHASE II OF RIMPAC 78

8 APR DEPART SOCIAL OPAREA EN ROUTE HAWAIIAN OPAREA

9 - 22 APR RIMPAC 78

23 APR MOORED PEARL HARBOR

25 APR DEPART PEARL HARBOR. COMMENCE TRANSITEX

25 APR - 1 MAY ASW TACTICAL READINESS EXERCISE

2 MAY CHOP TO SEVENTH FLEET

3 MAY COMCARGRU ONE STAFF TRANSFERRED FROM USS ENTERPRISE
TO USS KITTY HAWK

4 MAY RECONNOITERED BY SOVIET TU-95 BEARS

9 MAY FORTRESS WARRIOR I EXERCISE

11 MAY FORTRESS WARRIOR II EXERCISE

12 MAY TRANSIT SAN BERNADINO STRAITS

13 MAY ARRIVE PHILIPPINE OPAREA

17 MAY MOORED LEYTE PIER, NAS CUBI POINT, RP

22 MAY - 1 JUN EXERCISE COPE THUNDER

27 MAY DEPART NAS CUBI POINT FOR PHILIPPINE OPAREA
RESCUE AT SEA (13 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES)

12 JUN ANCHORED HONG KONG HARBOR FOR PORT VISIT

17 JUN DEPART HONG KONG

18 JUN ENCOUNTERED BORIS CHILIKIN CLASS KOLECHITSKY
FORTRESS WARRIOR III EXERCISE

19 JUN MOORED LEYTE PIER NAS CUBI POINT, RP

5 JUL DEPART NAS CUBI POINT, RP FOR SOUTH CHINA SEA OPS

9 JUL FORTRESS WARRIOR IV EXERCISE

10 JUL ENCOUNTERED SOVIET AGS ANTARES AND AGOR NEVELSKOY
AND ROPUCHA CLASS LST 383

12 JUL TRANSIT MALACCA STRAIT

13 JUL ENTERED INDIAN OCEAN

22 JUL VERTREP FROM MASROOR AFLD, KARACHI, PAKISTAN
ENCOUNTERED SOVIET KASHIN DDG-100 AND DON AS-941

29 JUL LOGISTICS LIFT, DIEGO GARCIA

29 - 30 JUL JCS ORDERED MODLOC VIC DIEGO GARCIA

4 AUG FORTRESS WARRIOR V EXERCISE

5 AUG EXERCISE BEACON SOUTH WITH RAN AND RAAF

7 AUG ANCHORED FREEMANTLE, AUSTRALIA FOR PORT VISIT

12 AUG DEPART FREEMANTLE, AUSTRALIA

16 AUG TRANSIT SUNDA STRAIT

17 - 18 AUG COMMENCE EXERCISE MERLION VI

CONFIDENTIAL

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

18 AUG	COMSEVENTHFLT/U.S. AMBASSADOR SINGAPORE VISIT ENTERPRISE TO OBSERVE MERLION VI
19 AUG	ANCHORED SINGAPORE FOR PORT VISIT
22 AUG	DEPART SINGAPORE
26 AUG	MOORED NAS CUBI POINT, RP
16 SEP	DEPART NAS CUBI POINT, RP
24 SEP	ENCOUNTERED SOVIET AGI ILMEN
24 SEP - 1 OCT	READEX 1-79
26 SEP	ENCOUNTERED SOVIET AGI IZMERITEL
1 OCT	BEAR DELTA SURVEILLANCE ENCOUNTERED SOVIET NATYA MSF-787
5 OCT	MOORED NAS CUBI PT, RP CTF-77/COMCARGRU FIVE DISEMBARK
9 OCT	DEPART NAS CUBI POINT, RP FOR STORM EVASION
12 OCT	BRIEF STOP CUBI FOR LOADING
18 OCT	OUTCHOP SEVENTHFLT/INCHOP THIRDFLT CV/CVN ENCOUNTER
22 OCT	MOORED PEARL HARBOR
24 OCT	DEPART PEARL HARBOR WITH 150 DEPENDENT SONS FOR TIGER CRUISE
30 OCT - 27 NOV	IN PORT NAS ALAMEDA, CA - STAND DOWN
28 NOV - 1 DEC	TRANSIT TO SOCAL CARRIER QUALS (29 NOV-1 DEC)
2 - 4 DEC	IN PORT NORTH ISLAND, SAN DIEGO
5 - 15 DEC	AIR OPS SOCAL CVW-11 FLY ABOARD (6 DEC) CYCLIC FLIGHT OPS (8-14 DEC) MINE READINESS CERTIFICATION INSPECTION CVW-11 (13 DEC)
16 - 31 DEC	IN PORT ALAMEDA

CONFIDENTIAL

1. (U) Command Organization

a. Commanding Officer

CAPT J. W. AUSTIN, U.S. Navy

b. Mission and Function of Command. The mission of ENTERPRISE, as delineated in NWIP 11-20, is "to support and operate aircraft, to engage in attacks on targets afloat and ashore which threaten our control of the sea, and to engage in sustained operations in support of other forces."

c. Composition of Command. On board manning levels at the year's end are shown below:

Officers

Ship's Company	142
Civilians	2

Enlisted

Ship's Company	2710
----------------	------

d. Carrier Air Wing FOURTEEN was embarked at intervals during the workup as shown in the chronology and during the entire deployment from 4 April through 29 October 1978 and was composed of VF-1 "Wolfpack," VF-2 "Bounty Hunters," VA-97 "War Hawks," VA-27 "Royal Maces," VA-196 "Main Battery," VAW-113 "Black Eagles," VAQ-134 "Garuda," RVAH-1 "Tigers," HS-2 "Golden Falcons," and VS-38 "Red Griffin." In addition, VQ-1 Detachment Charlie was embarked during the cruise.

e. Location of Homeport. Alameda Naval Air Station, California, remained the ENTERPRISE homeport throughout 1978.

2. (C) Summary of Operations (U)

a. (U) SOCAL Flight Operations and workup (10 January - 1 February).

ENTERPRISE began the New Year in home port preparing for the next phase of workup operations. On 10 January a series of at sea operations began which started with the fly aboard of CVW-14 and culminated in READEX 2-78. This exercise was a COMTHIRDFLT exercise designed to further prepare ENTERPRISE and CVW-14 in both the carrier sea control and power projection missions. After returning to Alameda on 2 February there followed a twenty-six day availability in Alameda.

b. (U) Operational Readiness Examination (ORE) period (28 FEB - 10 MAR). On 28 February ENTERPRISE sailed for SOCAL operating areas for an eleven day at sea period. This period began with carrier qualifications with CVW-14 and culminated in a successful ORE observed by COMCARGRU ONE

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

and his staff. The ship returned to Alameda on 11 March for the preparation for overseas movement (POM) period.

c. (C) WESTPAC Deployment (4 April - 30 October) (U)

(1) (C) Transit to WESTPAC/RIMPAC (4 April - 2 May). The transit west to Hawaii was dedicated to exercise RIMPAC 78 with the ENTERPRISE task group participating with the navies of New Zealand, Australia, and Canada. The exercise actually began two weeks before sailing with ASW and AAW team training in San Diego. While the transit phase of RIMPAC began on paper 4 April, ENTERPRISE conducted refresher OPS and ASW warm ups before the actual transit west which began on 8 April. During this transit phase, 172 S3 and SH3 sorties were flown in direct support of Blue force operations. A large Orange submarine threat consisting of both nuclear and diesel submarines resulted in high tempo, around the clock ASW prosecution by ENTERPRISE ASW aircraft. During the short visit to Pearl Harbor WESTPAC briefings and RIMPAC hot washups were conducted. While in the Hawaii OP areas RVAH-1 flew a total of fifteen photo RECCE missions in response to COMTHIRDFLT tasking for special photo mapping purposes.

(2) (C) SEVENTHFLT Operations, Part I (2 May - 19 June). The task group chopped to operational control of COMSEVENTH Fleet on 2 May 1978. COMCARGRU ONE shifted his flag to the USS KITTY HAWK from ENTERPRISE the same day. On 4 May the ENTERPRISE was reconnoitered by five Soviet TU-95 Bear aircraft while east of Guam. ENTERPRISE entered Subic for the first of four visits on 17 May. After the first Subic Visit there was a sixteen day operational period before heading to Hong Kong. During this period a group of thirteen Vietnamese refugees was picked up from a sinking sampan about ninety miles west of Luzon, RP. They were fed and clothed and then passed to USS HULL for further transfer to NAVSTA Subic. A very successful five day visit in Hong Kong was conducted with no major incidents.

(3) (C) Indian Ocean Deployment (5 July - 26 August). On 5 July ENTERPRISE sailed for the Indian Ocean. This phase of the deployment was uneventful until late July when a VERTREP from Masroor, Pakistan was conducted. The logistics lift from Masroor took place without any problems. The day after leaving Karachi the nuclear task group came under surveillance by a Soviet Kashin DDG and a Don class submarine tender. The ship crossed the equator on 27 July. Two days later a successful helo logistics lift from Diego Garcia was conducted. While in the area, and in response to CTF-77 tasking, RVAH-1 flew a total of five photo RECCE missions for mapping and orientation of Diego Garcia and all other island groups within the Chagos Archipelago. After spending an additional few days in the Diego Garcia area at the direction of JCS, the task group headed for Western Australia. One day out of Perth a two day exercise, Beacon South, was conducted with units of the RAAF and HMAS STUART. The exercise included an AAW phase with Australian F-111's attempting to penetrate the task group air defenses from RAAF Pearce. HMAS STUART

DECLASSIFIED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

attempted a surface penetration but was located by SSSC aircraft and struck with A7's and A6's before she could locate the carrier. The visit to Perth was excellent and there were no adverse incidents. From Freemantle via the Sunda Strait the ship proceeded to Singapore, participating in Merlion VI against Singapore navy patrol craft and their air force Hunters and A4's. Again it was a worthwhile exercise. A small alfa strike against Changi Airfield on the eastern side of the island was included and some good aerial RECCE imagery was obtained which was used to update the outdated FICPAC ATTG for that area. Singapore was visited for three days. Its a good port having the capability to swallow up a good sized liberty party. No adverse incidents in this port either. The ship returned to Subic on 26 August 1978 for three weeks of upkeep.

(4) (C) SEVENTH Fleet Operations, Part II and return transit (16 September - 30 October). Departing Cubi on 16 September, the ship headed north towards Okinawa for the first phase of READEX 1-79. This exercise was considerably scaled down, developing into a series of exercises off Okinawa followed by an opposed sortie from Buckner Bay by an amphibious ready group. The amphibians joined the two carrier task force moving through the Ryukyu Island chain towards the Korean strait. After the amphibians dropped off, ENTERPRISE and MIDWAY engaged Orange surface, air and submarine units. Just north of the Tsushima strait the exercise was terminated. Soviet Bear Delta's came out the day after FINEX and made several runs at us but didn't come any closer than 30 miles. Fleet reaction was normal, with F-14's escorting. In none of our many encounters with Soviet forces during the whole cruise was their conduct considered to be either improper or hazardous. Returning to Cubi 5 October CTF-77 and Staff disembarked. After two days of storm evasion in the South China Sea the ship commenced the return transit on 12 October. The Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board flew aboard 16 October 1978 and the ORSE followed for the next five days. The encounter with CONNIE was conducted 18 October, outchop on schedule arriving Pearl Harbor on 22 October where we embarked Tigers, sailed 24 October and after our four day ammo back load with CAMDEN arrived Alameda on 30 October for the stand down period.

3. (C) Air Wing Eleven Training Operations (28 November - 15 December). On 28 November, ENTERPRISE was underway again following the twenty-nine day stand down period. After transiting to the SOCAL operating area, carrier qualifications were conducted through 1 December. On 2 December ENTERPRISE entered port at Naval Air Station, North Island for three days. Air Wing Eleven came aboard on 4 December and the ship sailed for a ten day operation period. During this at sea period Air Wing Eleven conducted refresher air operations, cyclic operations and a successful Mine Warfare certification. The Air Wing flew off on 15 December and the ship returned to Alameda for the holidays on 16 December completing an active operational year.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

4. (U) Distinguished Visitors. The following dignitaries visited ENTERPRISE on the dates noted:

13 - 14 January	Dr. Anton Keel, Congressional fellow
18 - 19 January	Vice Admiral R. P. Coogan, COMNAVAIRPAC
3 March	Vice Admiral R. P. Coogan, COMNAVAIRPAC
17 April	Rear Admiral McDonald, COMAUSFLT
20 April	Admiral Hayward, CINCPACFLT/CNO
18 - 22 April	Vice Admiral Gravely, COMTHIRDFLT
29 - 30 April	San Diego Chamber of Commerce
9 June	Rear Admiral Coughlin, COMMSPAC Vice Admiral Foley, COMSEVENTHFLT
13 June	Vice Admiral Wagner, COM 12TH CG District Military Officials of Taiwan
18 August	Rear Admiral Foley, COMSEVENTHFLT
21 August	Military Officials of South Korea
25 August	Vice Admiral R. P. Coogan, COMNAVAIRPAC
14 September	Thirty members of Lions Club International, Olongapo, RP
21 - 22 September	Vice Admiral Foley, COMSEVENTHFLT
23 October	Vice Admiral McKee, COMTHIRDFLT
19 November	Mexican Consul General

DECLASSIFIED